

FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION

19 MAY 20 PH 3: 58  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA, FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

Case No. 8:03-CR-77-T-30TBM

GHASSAN ZAYED BALLUT  
\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DEFENDANT GHASSAN BALLUT'S EX PARTE MOTION FOR  
APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF PARALEGAL  
TO ASSIST COUNSEL AND MEMORANDUM OF LAW**

The Defendant, GHASSAN ZAYED BALLUT, by and through his undersigned counsel, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(e)(1), hereby requests this Honorable Court to authorize the Defendant's counsel to obtain the services of a paralegal to assist the Defendant's counsel in discovery, trial preparation, and other essential procedures in this cause, and as grounds therefor would state:

1. The Court has previously been made aware by the United States of the extensive and complex nature of this case, including the extent of the criminal allegations against the Defendant and his co-defendants, the volume of the evidence submitted in support of the allegations, and the length of time that will be required by defense counsel to conduct the discovery and to try this case.

2. The amount of evidence is particularly daunting, as it includes some 8,000 hours of taped telephone conversations over a period of several years resulting from 152 F.I.S.A. warrants along with thousands of documents and exhibits that are listed and described in five indices that alone total 366 pages.

3. The Court has advised the undersigned counsel to seek and recruit the assistance of a

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paralegal to conduct discovery and other pretrial preparation and to inform the Court of the budgetary amount required to adequately compensate the paralegal for services.

4. The undersigned counsel has interviewed a highly qualified candidate for the position of paralegal and has advised her of the nature and extent of the proposed tasks.

5. This same highly qualified candidate holds a Juris Doctor degree and was for several years licensed to practice law in the State of Florida. She has voluntarily terminated her membership in the Florida Bar, not for any disciplinary reasons but for professional considerations personal to herself. For many years both as a lawyer and a paralegal she has specialized in the control, indexing, and review of documents and evidence in complex litigation for a major Florida law firm, and is imminently qualified to conduct discovery in this case with minimal direction from the undersigned counsel, who has previously worked with this candidate at a law firm in this area.

6. It is the belief of the undersigned counsel that this same candidate would qualify for the necessary level of security clearance required in this case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

7. The same candidate has stated that she would require compensation at the rate of \$25.00 per hour and would anticipate expending not more than 40 hours per week, including travel time, for the proposed one year period of discovery, resulting in an anticipated maximum compensation of \$52,000.00 in the first year, presuming discovery will be completed in that time.

8. The same candidate as a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, would also require the payment of expenses for travel to and from Tampa which will be the discovery venue, and it is the knowledge and belief of the undersigned counsel that mileage and parking expenses would be not more than \$105.00 per week for a period of one year, resulting in anticipated maximum expenses of \$5,460.00 in the first year, again presuming discovery will be completed in that time.

9. Total compensation and expenses for the proposed paralegal would therefore be a maximum of \$57,460.00 for a period of one year.

10. The paralegal would be directed to seek compensation only for actual time worked and to restrict her hours to the proposed budget, and therefore the actual total of compensation and expenses could be below the proposed budget amount.

11. Although the undersigned counsel is mindful that less qualified paralegals may require less compensation than proposed here, the undersigned counsel is reasonably convinced that this same candidate would require much less active supervision by the undersigned counsel to the extent that between counsel and paralegal an overall saving of compensation could be achieved.

12. The undersigned counsel is awaiting additional information from the Federal Public Defender's Office, co-counsel in this case, to determine the budget for other services and equipment required for effective representation of the Defendant.

WHEREFORE, the Defendant requests the Court to determine that the services of a paralegal at the proposed rate of compensation and expenses are necessary for the proper representation of the Defendant and to authorize the undersigned counsel to obtain these services.

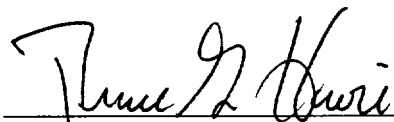
#### **Memorandum of Law**

Where a defendant in a federal criminal case is unable to obtain investigative, expert, or other services necessary for adequate representation, the defendant may request in an ex parte application that the Court make an appropriate inquiry into the necessity of the services and authorize appointed counsel to obtain the services. 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(e)(1). The Court has been well advised in this case of the Defendant's need for the services of a paralegal to assist in discovery. The Defendant's undersigned counsel is prepared to provide such additional

information as the Court may require to make this inquiry and to justify the proposed budget for a paralegal.

Respectfully submitted,

May 19, 2003  
Date



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